

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE LAWRENCE
K. KARLTON

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of retired U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence K. Karlton, who passed away last month. I ask my colleagues to take a moment and join me in tribute to Judge Karlton's truly distinguished life and service to the American people.

Judge Karlton was a steadfast believer that justice and equal protection under the law applied to all Americans, regardless of one's place in our nation and society. After graduating from New York University and Columbia School of law, Judge Karlton served in the United States Army and was the lead Civilian Legal Officer at the Sacramento Army Depot. He would later serve in private practice and volunteer as a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union on a number of civil rights cases. Governor Jerry Brown, well aware of Judge Karlton's talents, appointed him to the Superior Court of California in 1976. Three years later, President Jimmy Carter appointed him to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California in 1979. He would serve honorably for a number of years and took senior status in 2000. After thirty-five years on the federal bench, Judge Karlton formally retired last September.

With his passing, Judge Karlton has left behind a clear legacy as a fair jurist, one who was always impartial to those who stood in front of him, and one who clearly valued the rights enshrined in the United States Constitution. He has left an unforgettable mark on the people of our nation who needed the federal courts to be strong in order to protect their rights. While on the federal bench, Judge Karlton served on a number three judge panels that were charged with overseeing the State of California's overcrowded prison system. He oversaw a complex class action case filed on behalf of those who had immigrated to the United States in the 1980s, and waded into the complexities of federal protections for endangered species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in the 2000s.

Finally and perhaps most importantly, Judge Karlton leaves a legacy as a mentor to many talented lawyers, a number of whom have gone on to be appointed to federal and state judgeships. While the responsibilities of serving on federal bench were immense, he also was a wonderful husband to his wife, Sue, and father to his daughter, Emily Williams.

Mr. Speaker, as Judge Lawrence Karlton's family, friends and colleagues gather to honor his life and accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him and recognizing him for his many years of service to our nation and the legacy that he leaves behind.

HONORING CARLOS P. YAMZON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Stanislaus Council of

Governments (StanCOG) Executive Director Carlos P. Yamzon on his retirement; and to personally thank him for his years of profound service to Stanislaus County.

Over 35 years ago, Mr. Yamzon's career began in the public service of transportation. Twenty-seven of those years were spent in technical and management positions with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), whose purpose is to provide a safe and reliable transportation system to benefit and enhance the state of California.

After working in the transportation sector, Mr. Yamzon was amply prepared to begin working for StanCOG, the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the state designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the region of Stanislaus County. He worked diligently for this public organization to ensure transportation plans that would enhance the economic vitality of all Stanislaus County cities. After five short years, Mr. Yamzon was promoted to Executive Director.

In this role, Mr. Yamzon was responsible for a variety of entities within the organization. He was charged with regional transportation planning, program administration, financial management and budget control where he handled all areas proficiently and with expertise. Mr. Yamzon was a key player in implementing StanCOG's 2011 and 2014 Regional Transportation Plans. These plans will continue to be utilized for future transportation improvements and investments.

During his time at StanCOG, Mr. Yamzon was also instrumental in improving State Route 132. This is a major route for central valley commuters, as well as commercial truck drivers. In addition to Mr. Yamzon's efforts to improve State Route 132, he was an advocate for finding a suitable route in Stanislaus County to connect Interstate 5 and State Highway 99, 2 of California's best known routes.

Mr. Yamzon is a well-known leader in the community of Modesto and the region of Stanislaus County. In the StanCOG office located in downtown Modesto, he is loved and admired by his staff for his sense of humor, unique sock choices, his love for jelly donuts and his keen devotion to rock and roll.

Residing in Modesto, California for 29 years, Carlos and his wife Liz raised two children; daughter Aja Yamzon and son Marlon Yamzon.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to the transportation systems in Stanislaus County by Executive Director Carlos Yamzon. We wish him continued success in his retirement.

HONORING MR. MARK RAYMOND
CHANDLER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. Mark Raymond Chandler. Known throughout the Bay Area as a tireless advocate for veterans, Mr. Chandler has left an undeniable mark on our community. With his passing on July 31, 2015, we look to honor the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born in Erie, Pennsylvania, on July 25, 1934, Mark Raymond Chandler, formerly Raymond Joseph Buczynski, set out to explore the world at a young age. Mark spent much of his youth in New York City as a theatre actor. At the age of sixteen, he joined the United States Navy and later served in the Korean War. Mr. Chandler also aided in the evacuation of American civilian and "at risk" Vietnamese from Saigon in the fall of Saigon. He traveled extensively across the world, and met his beloved wife Indiah while working in Indonesia.

Later on in life, Mr. Chandler dedicated himself to serving as an advocate for disabled veterans, serving on the Veterans Affairs Commission, and working tirelessly to bring a VA Clinic to Alameda Point.

Mr. Chandler was a soldier, an actor, and a journalist, but above all else, he was a loving husband and father. He is survived by his wife Indiah, his siblings Marianne and Sonny, his children Kathy, Roger, Steven, and Brian, and his grandson Oliver.

Mark will forever be remembered as a hopeless romantic, a lover of roses, and a man who, despite all of his travels and experiences, cherished nothing more than sharing a coffee and a bun with his grandson, who he loved more than life itself.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes the life of an outstanding individual and leader. Mr. Chandler's contributions have truly impacted countless lives throughout the Bay Area. I join all of Mr. Chandler's loved ones in celebrating his incredible accomplishments and offer my most sincere condolences.

A TRIBUTE TO CALLIE ECKMANN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Callie Eckmann from the Tri-Center Varsity Cheer team, as she has been honored with the status of All-American at the Tri-Center cheer camp.

To achieve this status, Callie had to try out in front of the entire camp, demonstrating her knowledge and skill in all areas of cheer. Callie has dedicated her time and talents to achieving a single goal and I commend her for her hard work and determination.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Callie demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Callie on a job well done, and wish her nothing but continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker on this joyful day 50 years ago, President Lyndon

Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and because of that law, I stand before you as Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, the first African American woman Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today not just to commemorate the landmark achievement of 50 years ago but to inform our colleagues and the nation of the need to redouble and rededicate our efforts to the work that remains to be done to protect the right of all Americans to vote free from discrimination and the injustices that prevent them from exercising this most fundamental right of citizenship.

On August 6, 1965, in the Rotunda of the Capitol and in the presence of such luminaries as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Roy Wilkins of the NAACP; Whitney Young of the National Urban League; James Foreman of the Congress of Racial Equality; A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; John Lewis of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; Senators Robert Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, and Everett Dirksen; President Johnson addressed the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act:

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was critical to preventing brazen voter discrimination violations that historically left millions of African Americans disenfranchised.

In 1940, for example, there were less than 30,000 African Americans registered to vote in Texas and only about 3% of African Americans living in the South were registered to vote.

Poll taxes, literacy tests, and threats of violence were the major causes of these racially discriminatory results.

After passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, which prohibited these discriminatory practices, registration and electoral participation steadily increased to the point that by 2012, more than 1.2 million African Americans living in Texas were registered to vote.

In 1964, the year before the Voting Rights Act became law, there were approximately 300 African Americans in public office, including just three in Congress.

Few, if any, African Americans held elective office anywhere in the South.

Because of the Voting Rights Act, today there are more than 9,100 black elected officials, including 46 members of Congress, the largest number ever.

The Voting Rights Act opened the political process for many of the approximately 6,000 Hispanic public officials that have been elected and appointed nationwide, including more than 275 at the state or federal level, 32 of whom serve in Congress.

Native Americans, Asians and others who have historically encountered harsh barriers to full political participation also have benefited greatly.

The crown jewel of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is Section 5, which requires that states and localities with a chronic record of discrimination in voting practices secure federal approval before making any changes to voting processes.

Section 5 protects minority voting rights where voter discrimination has historically been the worst.

Since 1982, Section 5 has stopped more than 1,000 discriminatory voting changes in their tracks, including 107 discriminatory changes right here in Texas.

And it is a source of eternal pride to all of us in Houston that in pursuit of extending the full measure of citizenship to all Americans, in 1975 Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who also represented this historic 18th Congressional District of Texas, introduced, and the Congress adopted, what are now Sections 4(f)(3) and 4(f)(4) of the Voting Rights Act, which extended the protections of Section 4(a) and Section 5 to language minorities.

During the floor debate on the 1975 reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, Congresswoman Jordan explained why this reform was needed:

There are Mexican-American people in the State of Texas who have been denied the right to vote; who have been impeded in their efforts to register and vote; who have not had encouragement from those election officials because they are brown people.

So, the state of Texas, if we approve this measure, would be brought within the coverage of this Act for the first time.

When it comes to extending and protecting the precious right to vote, the Lone Star State—the home state of Lyndon Johnson and Barbara Jordan—can be the leading state in the Union, one that sets the example for the nation.

But to realize that future, we must turn from and not return to the dark days of the past.

We must remain ever vigilant and oppose all schemes that will abridge or dilute the precious right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to remind the nation that the right to vote—that “powerful instrument that can break down the walls of injustice”—is facing grave threats.

The threat stems from the decision issued in June 2013 by the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 193 (2013), which invalidated Section 4(b) of the VRA, and paralyzed the application of the VRA’s Section 5 preclearance requirements.

According to the Supreme Court majority, the reason for striking down Section 4(b) was that “times change.”

Now, the Court was right; times have changed.

But what the Court did not fully appreciate is that the positive changes it cited are due almost entirely to the existence and vigorous enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

And that is why the Voting Rights Act is still needed.

Let me put it this way: in the same way that the vaccine invented by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1953 eradicated the crippling effects but did not eliminate the cause of polio, the Voting Rights Act succeeded in stymieing the practices that resulted in the wholesale disenfranchisement of African Americans and language minorities but did eliminate them entirely.

The Voting Rights Act is needed as much today to prevent another epidemic of voting disenfranchisement as Dr. Salk’s vaccine is still needed to prevent another polio epidemic.

However, officials in some states, notably Texas and North Carolina, seemed to regard the *Shelby* decision as a green light and rushed to implement election laws, policies, and practices that could never pass muster under the Section 5 preclearance regime.

My constituents remember very well the Voter ID law passed in Texas in 2011, which required every registered voter to present a valid government-issued photo ID on the day of polling in order to vote.

The Justice Department blocked the law in March of 2012, and it was Section 5 that prohibited it from going into effect.

At least it did until the *Shelby* decision, because on the very same day that *Shelby* was decided officials in Texas announced they would immediately implement the Photo ID law, and other election laws, policies, and practices that could never pass muster under the Section 5 preclearance regime.

The Texas Photo ID law was challenged in federal court and thankfully, just yesterday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the decision of U.S. District Court Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos that Texas’ strict voter identification law discriminated against blacks and Hispanics and violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Speaker, protecting voting rights and combating voter suppression schemes are two of the critical challenges facing our great democracy.

Without safeguards to ensure that all citizens have equal access to the polls, more injustices are likely to occur and the voices of millions silenced.

Those of us who cherish the right to vote justifiably are skeptical of Voter ID laws because we understand how these laws, like poll taxes and literacy tests, can be used to impede or negate the ability of seniors, racial and language minorities, and young people to cast their votes.

Consider the demographic groups who lack a government issued ID:

1. African Americans: 25%
2. Asian Americans: 20%
3. Hispanic Americans: 19%
4. Young people, aged 18–24: 18%
5. Persons with incomes less than \$35,000: 15%

And there are other ways abridging or suppressing the right to vote, including:

1. Curtailing or eliminating early voting
2. Ending same-day registration
3. Not counting provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct on Election Day will not count.
4. Eliminating adolescent pre-registration
5. Shortening poll hours
6. Lessening the standards governing voter challenges thus allowing self-proclaimed “ballot security vigilantes” like the King Street Patriots to cause trouble at the polls.

Mr. Speaker, on the 50th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on August 6, 1965, I called upon House Speaker BOEHNER to bring legislation intended to protect the right to vote of all Americans to the floor for debate and vote.

Specifically, I call for the passage of the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendments Act (H.R. 885), of which I am an original co-sponsor, which repairs the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court’s *Shelby* decision.

This legislation replaces the old ‘static’ coverage formula with a new dynamic coverage formula, or ‘rolling trigger,’ which effectively gives the legislation nationwide reach because any state and any jurisdiction in any state potentially is subject to being covered if the requisite number of violations are found to have been committed.

Alternatively, I call upon the Speaker to let the House debate and vote on the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 (H.R. 2867), a bill that provides even greater federal oversight of jurisdictions which have a history of voter suppression and protects vulnerable communities from discriminatory voting practices.

Second, I call for the passage of H.R. 12, the Voter Empowerment Act of 2015, legislation I have co-sponsored that protects voters from suppression, deception, and other forms of disenfranchisement by modernizing voter registration, promoting access to voting for individuals with disabilities, and protecting the ability of individuals to exercise the right to vote in elections for federal office.

Mr. Speaker, before concluding there is one other point I would like to stress.

In his address to the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, President Johnson said:

Presidents and Congresses, laws and lawsuits can open the doors to the polling places and open the doors to the wondrous rewards which await the wise use of the ballot.

But only the individual Negro, and all others who have been denied the right to vote, can really walk through those doors, and can use that right, and can transform the vote into an instrument of justice and fulfillment.

In other words, political power—and the justice, opportunity, inclusion, and fulfillment it provides—comes not from the right to vote but in the exercise of that right.

And that means it is the civic obligation of every citizen to both register and vote in every election, state and local as well as federal.

Because if we can register and vote, but fail to do so, we are guilty of voluntary voter suppression, the most effective method of disenfranchisement ever devised.

And in recent years, Americans have not been doing a very good job of exercising our civic responsibility to register, vote, and make their voices heard.

Mr. Speaker, for millions of Americans, the right to vote protected by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things.

So on this 50th anniversary of that landmark law, let us rededicate ourselves to honoring those who won for us this precious right by remaining vigilant and fighting against both the efforts of others to abridge or suppress the right to vote and our own apathy in exercising this sacred right.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN REVIER

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank John Revier for the nearly fifteen years of service he has given me as my Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director. John's last day with my office was yesterday, and today he is beginning a new phase in his career at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) where he will serve in Boise as the Director for State and Regional Government Relations.

Not many staffers come along like John Revier. For those who know him, they know

he has one of the sharpest legislative minds of any staffer I have ever seen. He can break down any legislative or administrative issue in an instant and begin charting the course of action and implementing it. Many times he does this before people understand what the problem actually is and how it is going to affect them. John has become an expert on so many different issues it's hard to begin counting them.

As a Congressional staffer, John accomplished a rare feat. He served in both the Senate District office and Washington, D.C. office for the late Senator Rod Grams of Minnesota. He also served in both my Washington, D.C. office and Boise office. Not many Congressional staffers can say they touched all four bases in the House and Senate. This served to impress upon him how to work well with State and D.C. offices in both the House and Senate.

John is very proud of his roots in Minnesota and moreover his hometown of Redwood Falls. However, we are fortunate that he is now an Idaho transplant and will continue to serve Idaho in a new capacity.

I want to thank John's wife Jani and their two wonderful children Kate and Sam. They have allowed John to give much of his time to me. Moreover, it's been a pleasure to watch the twins as they are growing up.

I wish John the best in his new position, and as I like to jokingly say—"good luck to the INL for taking him away from us".

RECOGNIZING MIGUEL TREVIÑO, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retiring CEO of Gateway Community Health Center, Miguel Treviño, Jr. Born on April 14, 1944 in Laredo, Texas. Mr. Treviño started his career 48 years ago with the Laredo-Webb County Health Department working on the Migrant Health Program. This program later became the private, not-for-profit corporation Gateway Community Health Center, which has provided preventive health programs including: Family Planning, Breast and Cervical Cancer Services, and Immunizations.

As the former President of both the Texas Association of Community Health Centers and the Community Health Network of South Texas, Mr. Treviño was passionate about bringing health care needs to the forefront in his community.

A proud husband and father of three, Mr. Treviño is a man of values who has always extended a hand to those in need. His compassion and persistence were exemplified every day by his eagerness to greet everyone the moment he walked in the door and his willingness to pay for patients who couldn't afford services.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Treviño. He never wavered and stood his ground; all to benefit the community and those in it who were most vulnerable. Thank you for this time.

A TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT MARK T. ALBERS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mark Albers of Boy Scout Troop 182 in Waukee, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, and must complete an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Mark planned, constructed and installed three professional grade benches at the Covenant Presbyterian Church playground in West Des Moines. This playground is frequently used by area families and the Head Start Program at the church. The work ethic Mark has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Mark and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES IN LOS ANGELES

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and celebrate the success of the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, California. The Games began on Saturday, July 25, 2015 with spectacular Opening Ceremonies at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum that featured an address by First Lady Michelle Obama. The Games ended with festive Closing Ceremonies at the same venue on Sunday, August 2, 2015. I am proud to represent the area that includes not only the Coliseum, but also the University of Southern California which has hosted several events, including aquatics, basketball, track and field competitions.

Special Olympics World Games this year included over 6,000 athletes from 165 countries competing in 25 different sports. I am particularly happy to have the Games in Los Angeles after 16 years of being hosted outside of the United States.

Since its founding in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics have played a significant part in fostering greater